

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

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E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: EWWT, BEXP, NI

SUBJ: LAGOS/APAPA PORT CONGESTION

REF: (A) LAGOS 10460

(B) LAGOS 10920

1. AS REPORTED REF (A), NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY HAS ENTERED NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMERICAN-WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE LINES IN EFFORT TO FORESTALL CONFERENCE PORT SURCHARGE OF 30 PERCENT WHICH WAS TO GO INTO EFFECT NOVEMBER 24.

2. FOLLOWING VISIT BY PORTS AUTHORITY OFFICIALS TO NEW YORK IN MID-NOVEMBER, AND SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY CONFERENCE OFFICIALS TO LAGOS, NIGERIANS HAVE PREPARED LETTER LISTING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH "PARTIAL PRIORITY" BERTHING WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO MEMBER SHIPPING LINES OF AMERICAN-WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE.

3. LETTER IS DATED 6 DECEMBER, ADDRESSED TO COL. JOHN E. CUNNINGHAM, CHAIRMAN, AWACL, AND SIGNED BY GEN. MGR., NPA. TERMS OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ONE BERTH WOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR USE BY CONFERENCE;
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(B) AS REQUIRED GUARANTEED MINIMUM OF 20,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS PER MONTH CANNOT YET BE ACHIEVED BY CONFERENCE, AND BERTH CANNOT BE KEPT IDLE, WAITING PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN DAYS MAY AT TIMES ARISE;

(C) SCHEDULED PROGRAM OF QUARTERLY SAILINGS OF ALL VESSELS USING ALLOCATED BERTH SHALL BE GIVEN TO NPA AT LEAST ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE OF COMMENCEMENT OF QUARTER;

(D) SUFFICIENT CARGE HANDLING EQUIPMENT FOR EFFECTIVE WORKING OF BERTH SHALL BE PROVIDED BY CONFERENCE;

(E) CONFERENCE SHALL ENCOURAGE CONSIGNEE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DIRECT DELIVERIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND ISSUE NECESSARY NOTIFICATION TO CONSIGNEE TO THAT EFFECT;

(F) CONCESSION WOULD BE IN FORCE FOR AS LONG AS CONFERENCE REFRAINS FROM IMPOSING SURCHARGE;

(G) EITHER PARTY HAS RIGHT TO REPUDIATE THIS AGREEMENT BY GIVING THREE MONTH'S NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DO SO.

4. OUT UNDERSTANDING IS THAT AWACL DID IMPOST 30 PER-CENT SURCHARGE AS SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 24, BUT LIFTED IT SEVERAL DAYS LATER PENDING OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT NPA STAVED OFF SURCHARGE BY UK-WEST AFRICAN LINES BY GRANTING SECOND PRIORITY BERTH TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING ONE. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT UKWAL WILL INCREASE ALL FREIGHTS BY 25 PERCENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1975. ALTHOUGH UKWAL SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY DENIED ANY CONNNECTION WITH LAGOS-APAPA CONGESTION, HE DID POINT OUT THAT 60 PER-CENT OF TOTAL UKWAL FREIGHT TRAFFIC GOES THROUGH LAGPS/APAPA. CROSBY

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